

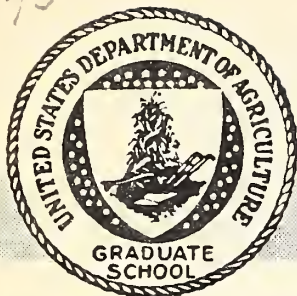
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Newsletter



GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

January 18, 1952

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

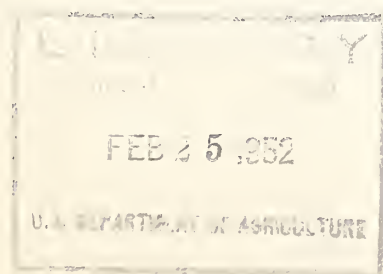
This will be my last Newsletter

as Director of the Graduate School for a while. As many of you know, the General Administration Board has granted me a leave of absence for two years to accept a post with the Point IV program. I transferred to States's Foreign Service January 9, when I was sworn in as Director of Technical Cooperation for Iraq. I will be leaving for Baghdad within the next few days. My family will join me when school is out in the spring. In saying goodbye for two years, I'll take this opportunity to tell you how much I enjoy working with you. Our associations since I became Director of the Graduate School in 1945 have been richly rewarding to me. I shall look forward to renewing them when I return. The new assignment gives me an opportunity to serve in a program which I believe offers a great deal of hope for helping build a peaceful world.

P. V. Cardon

will become assistant director of GS, February 1, on his retirement as administrator of the Agricultural Research Administration. He comes to GS from a distinguished career in agricultural research, teaching, writing, and administration. A member of the General Administration Board since 1948 and formerly associated with GS in other capacities, Dr. Cardon is exceptionally well informed on GS policies, programs and problems.

In the new post Dr. Cardon will have a part in developing GS policy and in initiating, planning, and directing academic programs and services. He will carry much of the responsibility for internship programs, exploring foundation resources for new activities, lecture series and special workshops and seminars. He will work with departmental and other committees on program development, especially in biological and physical sciences.



A new approach to economic security

in old age for college teachers is envisioned by TIAA (Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America, and is an experiment of interest to all concerned in financial planning for retirement. The new plan, of interest primarily to younger staff members, is based on an effort to provide more dollars as retirement income when prices are high, perhaps reducing the number of dollars when prices are low.

Extensive studies, TIAA reports, show that most annuitants would have been better off over the average period of retirement if part of their savings for retirement had been invested in common stocks as a supplement to the part invested in regular annuities.

The plan, now in preliminary stage, would establish a College Retirement Equities Fund, which would invest entirely in common stock and other equities. Only 50 percent of the total premium for the individual would go to the Fund. The remainder would be invested through TIAA and the new organization would be separate from TIAA, a Carnegie endowed organization, except for coordinated control at the top. The combined plan provides a long-term investment program. With it the teacher would have Social Security benefits, if eligible; TIAA annuity providing a guaranteed dollar benefit; and the Equities Fund annuity.

If enough participants in TIAA in colleges across the country favor the plan, the next step will be to seek authorization for its incorporation under the laws of New York.

"Modern students of gerontology frequently emphasize that a person should retire to and not from something," observes George E. Johnson, vice president and secretary of TIAA, in the AMERICAN COLLEGES BULLETIN for October 1951. He goes on to say that the concept of retirement as a period of continued useful activity instead of a "grand loaf" requires active preparation.

The training of county agents

should include more social sciences than have been offered in the past says Joe L. Matthews (Ext.) who with C. C. Hearne (OFAR) will teach the course, "Development of Programs," in the spring semester.

Dr. Matthews bases his conclusions on his 15-years experience in Extension as county agent, area specialist, and assistant to the State Extension Director (Texas) plus research toward his doctorate at the University of Chicago. In his dissertation, "Study of Training Needs of County Agents," Dr. Matthews recommends more courses in educational methods, economics relating to public policy, and sociology for men and women going into extension work. He and Dr. Hearne planned the outline for this spring's GS course, last summer, while both were on the staff of the regional extension school for Negroes, Prairie View, Texas.

We use proportional representation

in recording registration of USDA employees in Graduate School courses. As you will note in Table VI of our 1951 report on educational statistics, by this measure, the library, with 31 employees or 21 percent of the staff signed up for courses, led all other agencies. That's 3 times the representation of USDA as a whole, which was 737 or 7 percent of the total number of USDA employees in the Washington area. PMA's 173 staffers, largest number of enrollees from any USDA agency, represented only 6 percent of the PMA staff in this area.

Our report includes 8 tables and 4 charts covering the summary of registration for 1950-51, summary of course registration by departments of instruction, reasons for enrollment in courses, educational background of students, student body by place of employment, registration of USDA employees, trends in course registration (1941-1951), summary of course and individual registrations over the 10-year period; employment grades of 1950-51 students, student body 1950-51 by age groups and by sex, sources of GS faculty and committee members for the school year 1950-51, and participation by USDA employees as GS faculty and committee members, school year 1950-51.

We think the report gives a fairly detailed picture of the school, helps to chart our areas of future work. We have extra copies for those of you who wish them. Call Mrs. Carlock on USDA extension 6337.

New, next semester,

are instructors: Duncan Scott of the International Press Section, State, who will teach Feature Writing; Pat McGerr, well known mystery writer, who will conduct the Fiction Workshop; Stedman B. Noble, Bureau of Labor Statistics, who will give a course in Inter-Industry Economics; Tom Townsend, Personnel of USDA, who will teach Wage Administration; Sidney Adams, BAIC of USDA, who will handle the course, Advanced Administrative Procedure; and Isabel Smith, BEPQ of USDA, who will give a course in Flower Arrangement, scheduled at the request of the USDA Garden Club. Also, by demand, we're repeating the course Hospital Business Administration I, Accounting, Statistics, and Finance given by David Spanier.

Field work is enlivening

class discussions in "Federal Personnel Procedure". Instructor Eugene Peterson of SCS Personnel arranges for his students -- in GS 4 through GS 11 jobs face to face experience such as: attending a meeting of the Federal Personnel Council where they could see how policy and procedure are developed, visits to the Civil Service Commission to observe test evaluation and development, auditing and filing records, techniques of setting up a board of examiners. Reports by the students form the springboard to class discussions on the fundamental nature of procedure highlighted by firsthand knowledge of operational details.

Function of the library

is not necessarily to store books but to store information. How this can be done with existing mechanical, electrical, and electronic tools as adapted to the bibliographical system in America is described in BIBLIOGRAPHY IN AN AGE OF SCIENCE. Published by the University of Illinois Press, the book is the work of Louis N. Ridenhour, the eminent physicist, Albert G. Hill, electronics expert, and Ralph R. Shaw (Languages and Literature Department) inventor and research librarian.

Quotable Quotes

Find more pleasure in intelligent dissent than passive agreement, advises Bertrand Russell, for if you value intelligence as you should the former implies a deeper agreement than the latter.

Vocational testing

is available to GS students without charge through the U. S. Employment Service. If you have a student who seems a misfit in his work or in the course he has chosen, you might help him by suggesting that he be tested for vocational potentialities at USES. Make arrangements through Registrar Louise Sullivan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Louis N. Ridenhour". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Louis" being more prominent and the last name "Ridenhour" following in a similar style.

Director